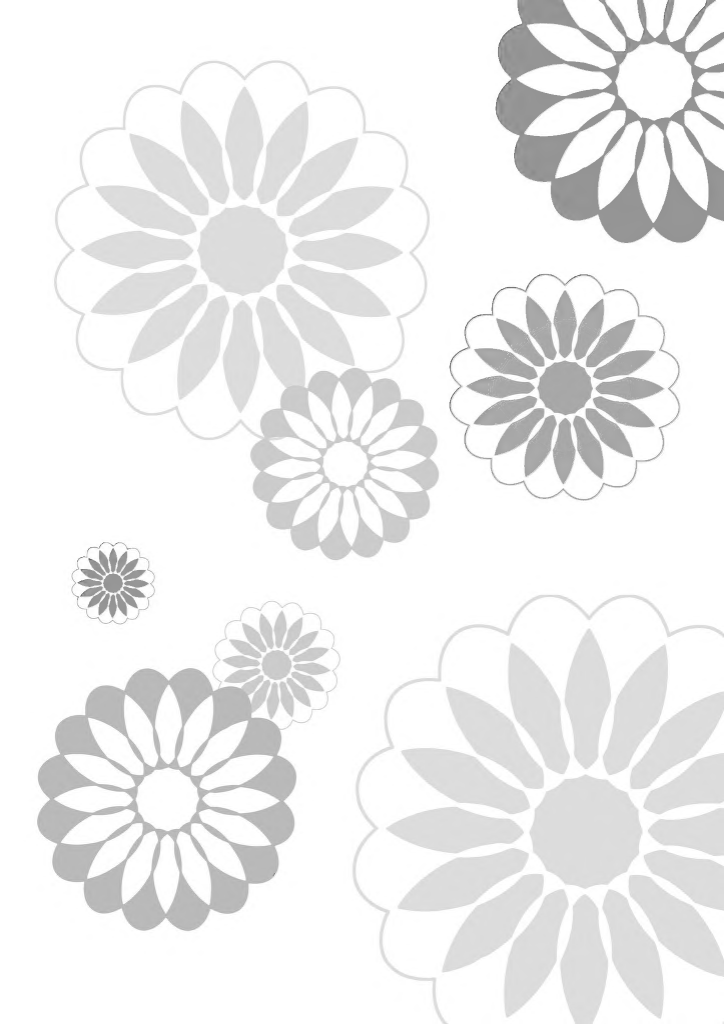
Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

24

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 24

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Lea Hernandez

LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

CHAPTER 149
Running Dialogue.....3

CHAPTER 150
The Path of Belief.....25

CHAPTER 151
Prepared to Win,
Prepared to Lose.....37

CHAPTER 152
The Real You.....59

CHAPTER 153
The Hot Springs Episode.....85

CHAPTER 154
I Dub Thee, Yuufuin.....109

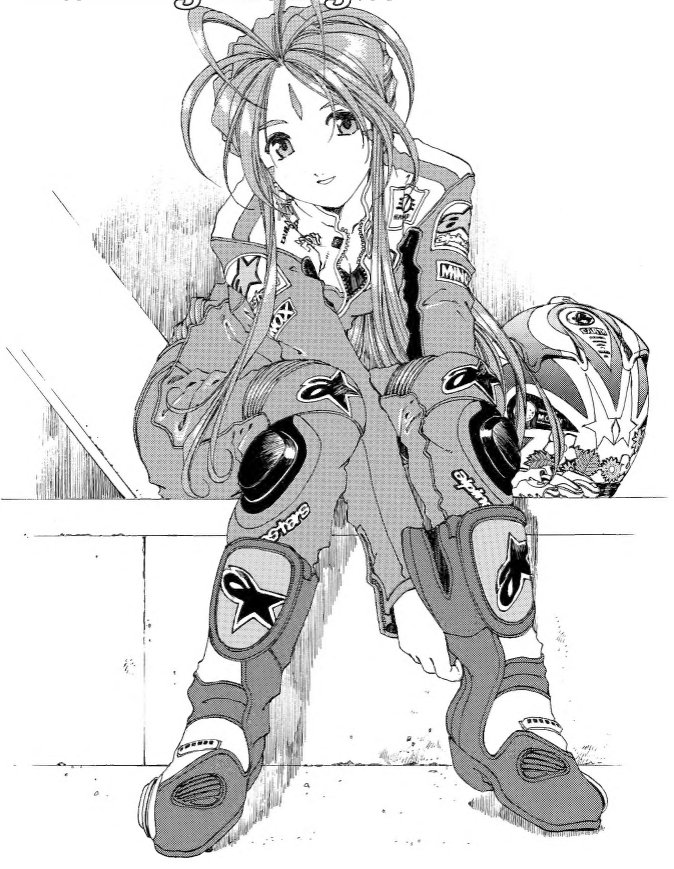
CHAPTER 155
Fighting Wings.....133

ADVENTURES OF THE
MINI-GODDESSES SPECIAL:
More Magical
DoMiSo Online!.....159

Letters to the Enchantress....166

CHAPTER 149

Running Dialogue



VRAWW...
BRAMMM
VAWWWNN...

BRMMMM
...WHEN THEY RIDE TOGETHER, THEY SPEAK...
...IN SUCH A *POWERFUL* VOICE.
VVV
x1000 r.p.m

...THE MOUN-TAINS...

THE TREES...

ALL OF NATURE...

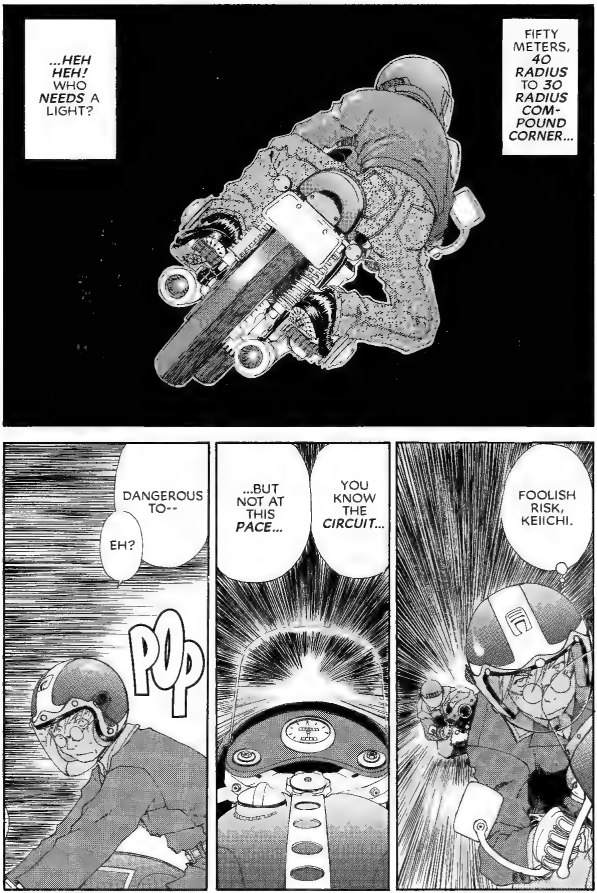
...BEAR WITNESS TO THEIR BEAUTY.

...AND THE STARS...

MOTOR-CYCLES ARE MAS-TERED...
RIGHT, KEIICHI!
...WITH THE HEART.
VRAWWW
BAKKA

KEIICHI!
!!

SKAIH
I'M BLIND!
TAKE IT EASY...
HEAD-LAMP OR NOT... YOU KNOW EVERY INCH OF THIS PASS!

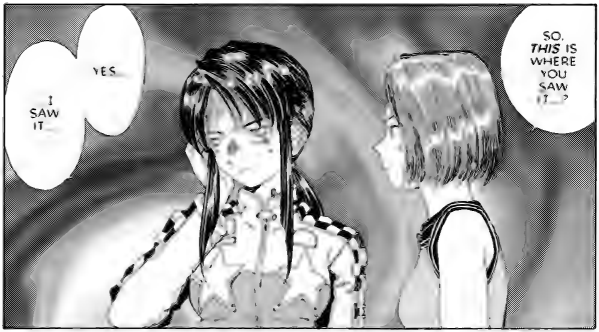

...HEH HEH! WHO NEEDS A LIGHT?
FIFTY METERS, 40 RADIUS TO 30 RADIUS COM-POUND CORNER...
FOOLISH RISK, KEIICHI.
YOU KNOW THE CIRCUIT...
...BUT NOT AT THIS PACE...
DANGEROUS TO--
EH?
POP

POP
POP

WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT--

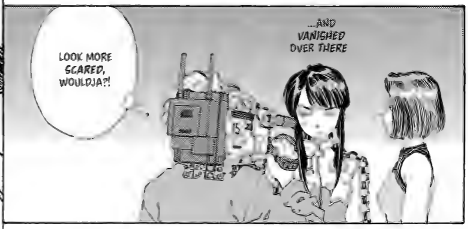
I'M OKAY?
BUT THAT *LIGHT*, WHAT...?
"OKAY." ARE YOU?
WHO *CARES*?!
EN-H!

BRRM
--BEGINS NOW!!
THE REAL RACE--
AND I'VE GOT THE EYE-WITNESS TO THIS UNNATURAL EVENT!
THIS IS YOUR F-F-FEARLESS REPORTER, AT INOKURADAI PASS.
VRRRRR


SO... THIS IS WHERE YOU SAW IT...?
YES... I SAW IT...

THIS GLOWING THING CAME FROM HERE...

gasp!

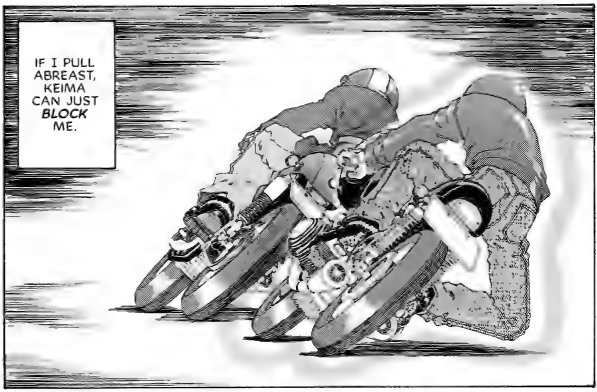

LOOK MORE SCARED, WOULDJA?!
...AND VANISHED OVER THERE

VRRAWWNNN
UHM...?
PERFECT!
!!
WAHHH...

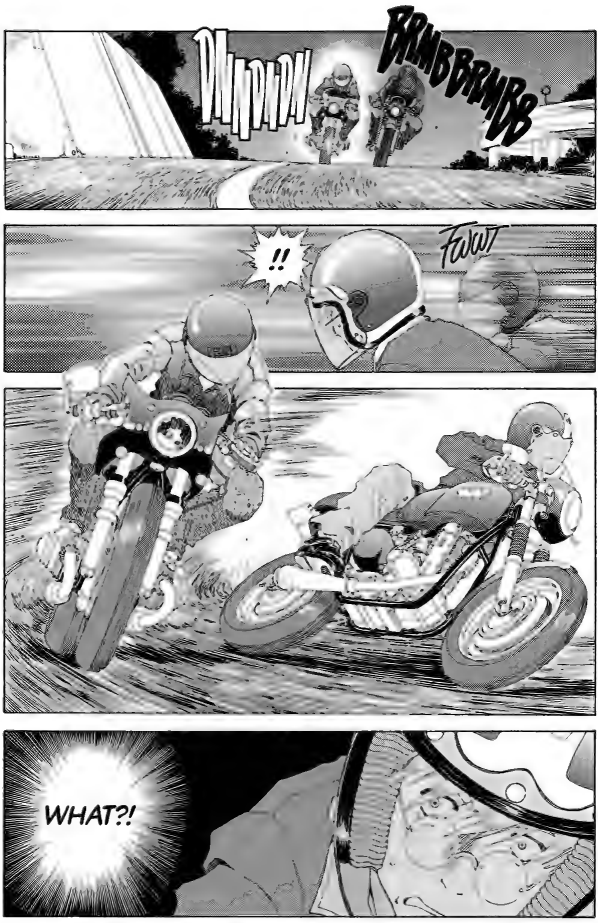
GRRRM!!
YEEK!!
KTUNK
ピーッ!

MR. PRO-DUCER !!!
KCHK
hhn ...?
BRNNG BRNNG...
GOB! I LIED TOO! I HADN'T REALLY SEEN IT!
YOU LIED! YOU SAID IT WASN'T REALLY SCARY!
I WANT TO GO HOOOME--
I'M CURSED! THE CURSE OF THE PASS!
MAN. WOTTA PRO...
VNNN
--I MEAN... WELL, YOU SAW IT HERE, FOLKS!

KEIMA'S LINE IS *PERFECT*. LIKE HE KNOWS THE ANGLE ON EVERY CORNER.
VRAMM
VRAMMMMM

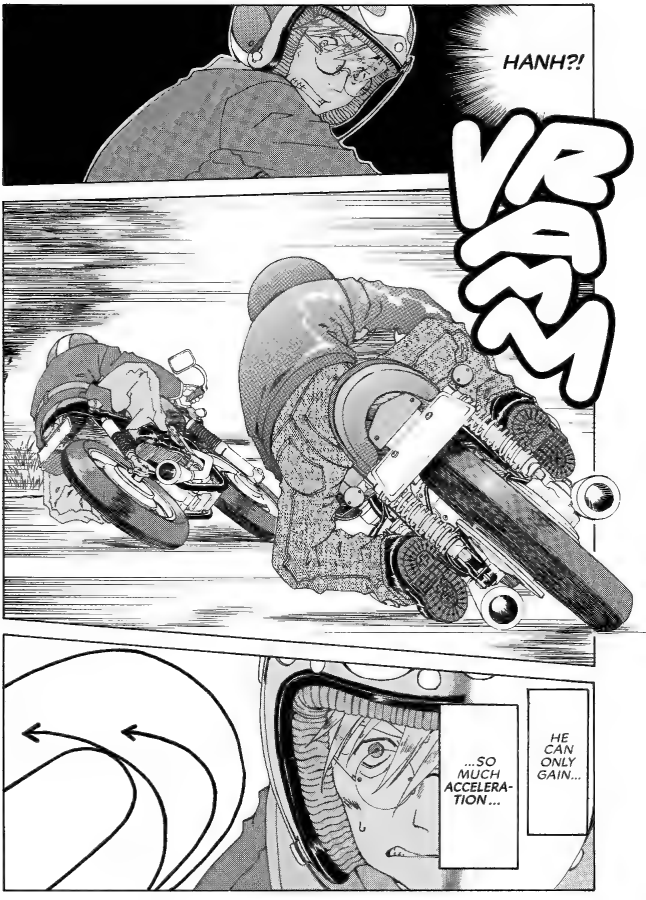

IF I PULL ABREAST, KEIMA CAN JUST *BLOCK* ME.

SKREE
THAT *RAIN* A WEEK AGO. JUST *MAYBE*...
BUT...
HE'S IN THE PERFECT SPOT FOR BREAKING AWAY.


DRRRRRRR
BRMBBRMBB
!!
FWWT
WHAT?!

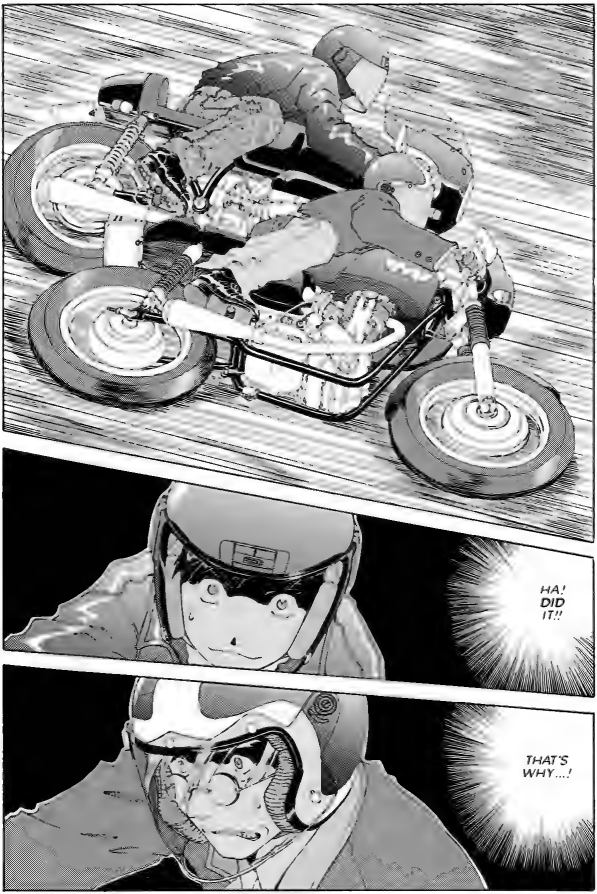
CHAPTER 150

The Path of Belief


HANH?!
VRRR
HE CAN ONLY GAIN...
...SO MUCH ACCELERATION...

WHY THE OUTSIDE CURVE?
I HAVE THE INSIDE...
THEN, FULL THROTTLE, AND...
VAZO!
WATER!
CARELESS!

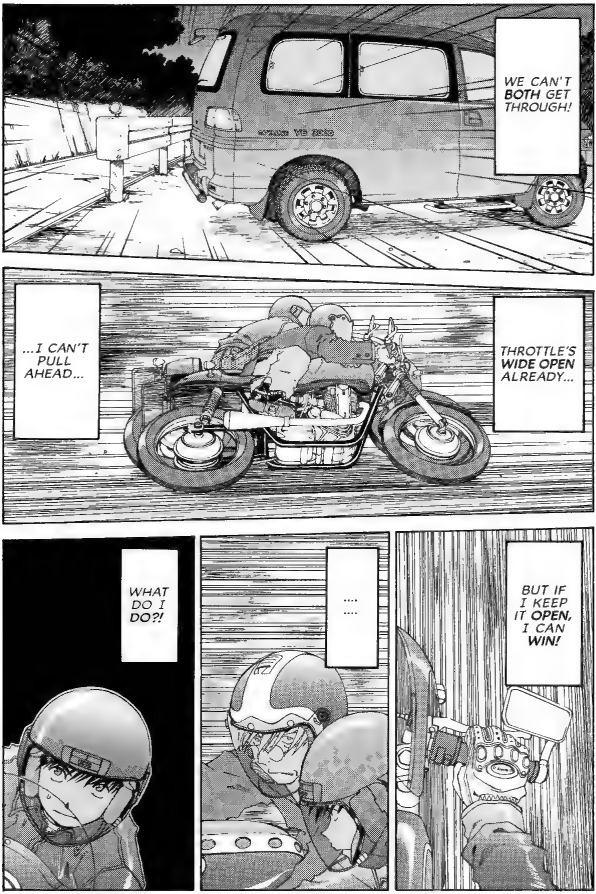
SPASSH
MESSED-UP ROAD CONSTRUC-TION MEANS THE MOUNTAIN RAIN ALWAYS POOLS HERE.
...AND KEIMA CAN'T ACCELERATE IN IT!
TRAP!


HA! DID IT!!
THAT'S WHY...!

YOW!
BBBMM
FASSH!
UHH
DIZZY CHICK! THERE'S NOTHING H--

VVAHH!
HYEEEK!
WHICH WAY?!

LEFT!
SHRT
NO!


WE CAN'T BOTH GET THROUGH!
...I CAN'T PULL AHEAD...
THROTTLE'S WIDE OPEN ALREADY...
WHAT DO I DO?!
....
....
BUT IF I KEEP IT OPEN, I CAN WIN!

KEIICHI...DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE.
LIKE I DON'T KNOW?
sigh
...WOULD YOU PROTECT THIS GIRL WITH YOUR LIFE?
WHAT'S MY CHOICE?

WE'D BOTH DO THE SAME.
SHK
SKREEET

OH MY GODDESS!

BELLDANDY

CHAPTER 151

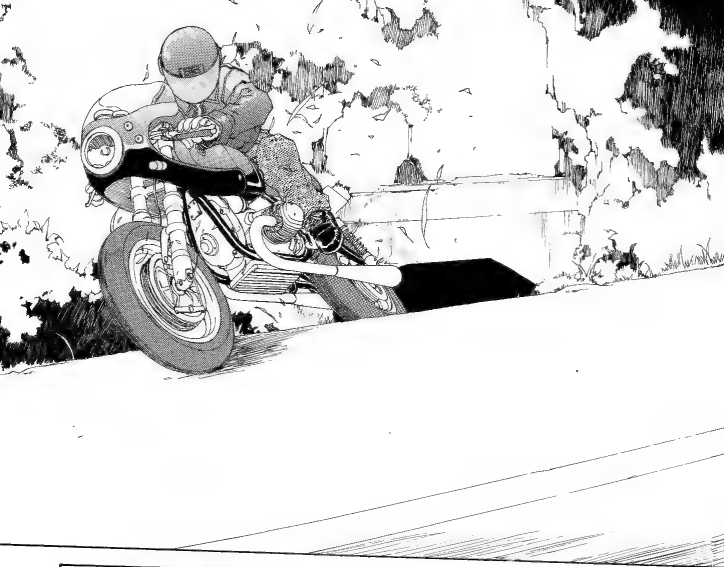
Prepared to Win, Prepared to Lose

SKREEEEET
!!
DROPPING BACK...?
HAH ?!

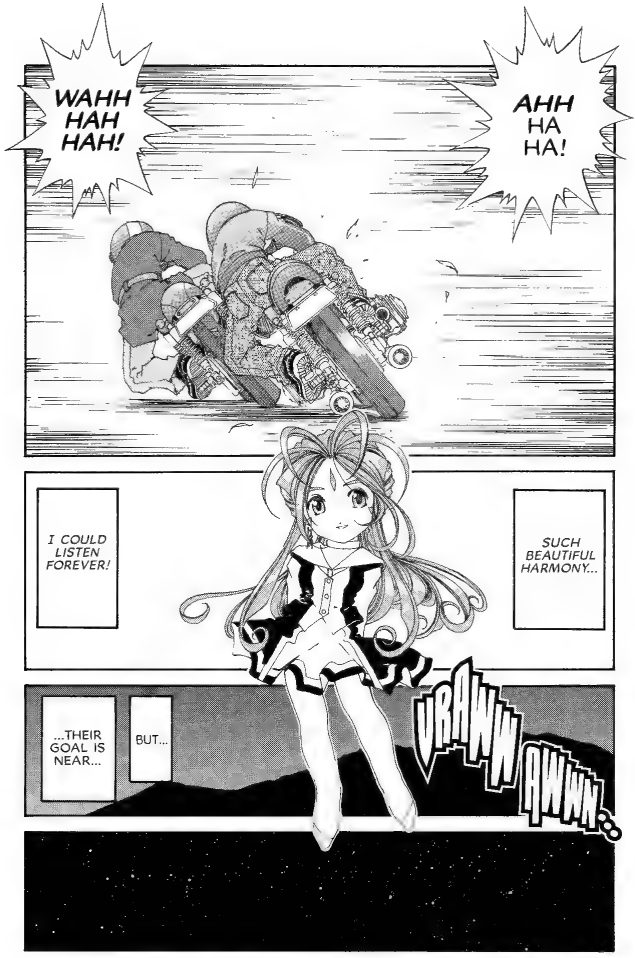
VRAAA!
HUH?
WHOA!
WHOA!
"HEH"

SKIWHDD
SOFT LANDING...
HMH...
—
DOWN!

I...
"WIN"...



HA
HAH!
HEE
HEE!


WAHH HAH HAH!
AHH HA HA!
I COULD LISTEN FOREVER!
SUCH BEAUTIFUL HARMONY...
...THEIR GOAL IS NEAR...
BUT...
VRAWN AWWN...

MAH-JONG DEN
MEH HEH...!
ONE MORE, AND DAISAN-GEN...!
CHINROTO, YOU'RE MINE!
SHOSHUSHI, VOILÀ.

TSUMO!
MENZENCHIN!
AH WIN!
TAK TAK!
GLASSFACTORY
GLASS
WITH
THAT
LOWLY
HAND?!

EX-SQUEEZE ME?! TH' RULES SAY--
MON MAGNIFIQUE SHOSHUSHI!
MY PURE CHINROTO!
B-BUT-- MY THREE-SETS-OF-- THREE DAISAN-GEN!
WHAT WAS AH S'POSED T' DO--LET YA'LL FINISH YOUR FANCY-PANTS HANDS?
GASP!
--TH' FIRST COMPLETE SET WINS.
ELLIE'S FACTORY
GLASS

BELL-DANDY?
YES?
...MY FOLKS... THEY'RE KINDA... I'M SORRY.
DON'T BE.
THEY HAVE A *VAST LOVE*.
IT'S SO COMFORTABLE TO BE NEAR THEM.

ALL PEOPLE EVER TELL ME IS HOW *WEIRD* THEY ARE.
YEAH... BUT... YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER *SAY* THAT.
AH!
BELL, YOU ARE *SO* AWESOME.
IF KEIICHI'S WITH YOU, HE'LL BE...
EVEN WHEN IT'S RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
YOU CAN'T KNOW TRUTH IF YOU CAN'T SEE TRUTH.

HUH?
THEY'RE BACK.
DRNN DRNN DRNN
BRMBB BRMBB

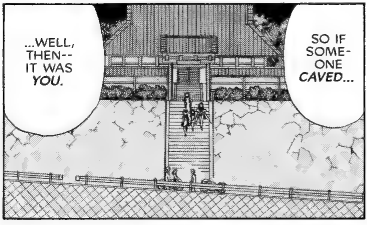
KEIICHI? KEIMA?
AND?
...I DIDN'T WIN.
I...

AS IN... DEFEAT...?
HE LOST?
GLASS FACTORY
GLASS CAT
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
!
AT TH' CRUNCH... Y' HELD BACK.
HUH!
GLASS FACTORY
GLASS

KEIICHI...
...YOU FINALLY PULLED EVEN WITH KEIMA.
AH *SAW* YOU START.
WHY, IF Y' *LOST*, THAT *HAD* TO BE WHY.
SILLY.
GLASS CAT
AH KNEW RIGHT *AWAY*.
WE'RE *FAMILY*.

KEIMA *NEVER* YIELDS T' AN EQUAL.
THAT'S HOW HE SHOWS HIS RESPECT.

GOOBER.
YA DID *GOOD.*


SO IF SOME-ONE *CAVED...*
...WELL, THEN-- IT WAS *YOU.*

YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED.

...MEANS COMIN' BACK ALIVE.
PROTECTIN' SOMEONE WITH YOUR LIFE...
koff
ahem
...I RECALL SOME-ONE SAYIN'.
OR SO...

MM...
NOW THEN.
I WON THE BET.

CHOKE!
TIME FOR YOU TO TELL...
...WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE.
OF COURSE. GLADLY.
I'M A--

OH MY GODDESS!

CHIHIRO

CHAPTER 152

The Real You

SOCK IT TO ME.
I'M READY.
I'M A--
OF COURSE.

G--
?
A GO--
NO, NO.
A GUH?
A GONER?
GONE?

GOZER?
GOVERN-ESS?
WE STILL HAVEN'T SETTLED WITH TAKANO!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
MY, MY.
YA'LL GONNA LET ME *SETTLE* IT?
WELL, AIN'T *THAT* GONNA BE SOME FUN.

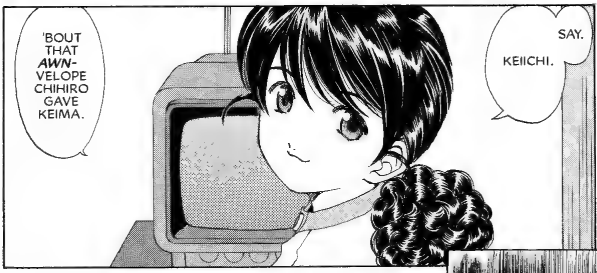
A WHAT?
GOT A GAS TORCH?
MM?
MEGUMI.
....

KEIICHI?
IS IT REALLY SO BAD...
...TO TELL THEM I'M A *GODDESS?*
WELL...
NO ONE'D *BELIEVE* YOU.
BUT IF THEY *DID...*
...THEY MIGHT TRY TO KEEP YOUR POWERS FOR THEM-SELVES.

BUT SURELY *THOSE* TWO...
...IT'S NOT ALWAYS AS SWEET AS YOU THINK.
THIS WORLD...
THEY PROBABLY ALREADY GUESSED.
YOU KNOW... YEAH.
...EVEN *I'M* STILL AMAZED, SOMETIMES.
I MEAN...

I *PROMISED* TO PROTECT YOU.
WELL. WHATEVER HAPPENS...
YES.
READY TO GO BACK?
I KNOW.
?

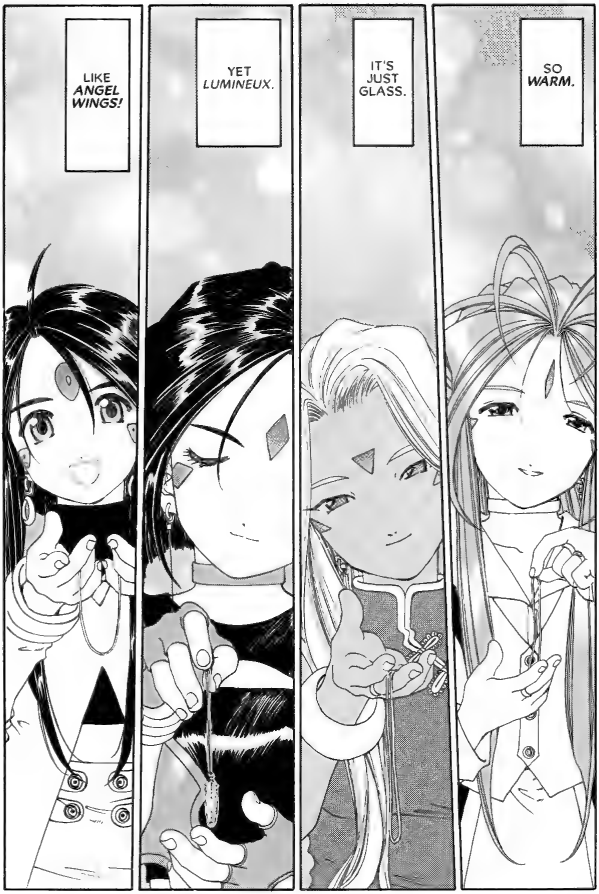
...YEP. OWNED THEM ALL!~


'BOUT THAT AWN-VELOPE CHIHIRO GAVE KEIMA.
SAY. KEIICHI.

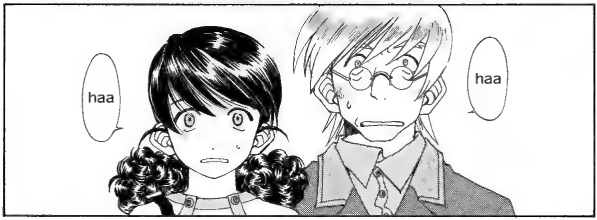
WHAT?!
WHAT'S WRONG, BOY?
KEIICHI?
Y'KNOW? THE ONE SHE GAVE HIM FOR HELPIN' OUT?

I HEAR KEIMA CALLIN' YOU.
GO HAVE A... LOOK-SEE.
huh?
OOH!

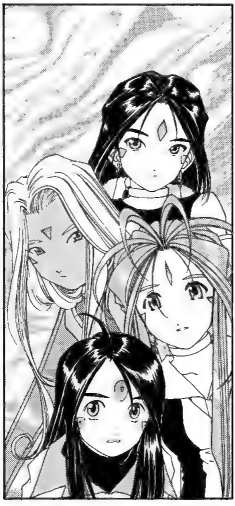
MM.
IT'S REALLY FOR ME?
REALLY?!
MADE SOME FOR ALL OF YOU.


LIKE ANGEL WINGS!
YET LUMINEUX.
IT'S JUST GLASS.
SO WARM.

GLASS FAC


haa
haa

huh?
huh?
TATE
RUKA



NICE WORK--
--VELSPER.
...
EH?
JUST...?
DID YOU JUST...
...THEN TH' "G" IS FOR--
THEN...

YEAH! THIS I GOTTA HEAR!
RIGHT?!
SHEESH...
...THAT WAS LAME...
RIGHT!
UH!
ENH!
W-WHY IS KEIMA ONLY OKAY AROUND Y-Y-YOU AND MEGUMI?
SO...SO. RIGHT!
HUH.
YA'LL CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT?
nope

'CAUSE WE'RE TWO WOMEN HE TRULY LOVES.
hold it!

...HE LOVES BELLDANDY, TOO?!
WOULDN'T THAT IMPLY...
SEE YA!

LATER!
MM.
TELL ME...
OH *YEAH*, BELL...
DATSUN
BOY, AH *ASKED* WHAT WAS WRONG WITH YOU.
YOU'RE GOOD T' GO, RIGHT?

VRM!
THAD
END

BRRRRMMM
...WHAT'D THEY *REALLY* COME VISIT FOR?
GOOD QUESTION.
I THINK... THEY WERE *WORRIED*...
...ABOUT YOU GUYS.
SURE *THAT'S* IT!

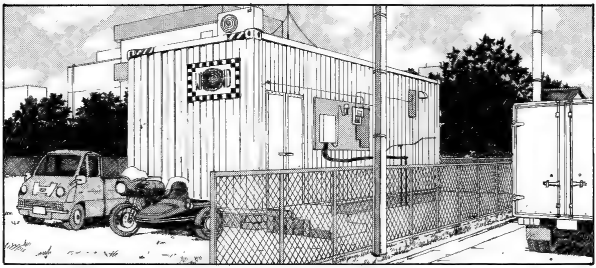
...T' ASK WHO SHE IS.
AH *FORGOT...*
DANG.
...A FAIR IDEA.
I'VE GOT...
huh...
...YOU, ***TOO?***

NICHIMEN CO.LTD

THE NEXT DAY
YOU PAID MY DAD WITH THIS?!
NOW IF THE TICKET WINS, WOULDN'T THAT BE COOL?
...SO CHEAP.
...BUT I HAD TO MAKE HIM. HE DESERVED IT!
WIN A STAY AT...
YUUFUIN HOT SPRINGS RESORT
ONE COUPLE
FOUR DAYS, THREE NIGHTS
WILL/GIVEN
WIN!
DY1286478
CHIHIRO... HOW SHALL I PUT THIS... YOU'RE SO... SO...
WELL, HE DIDN'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT...

CHAPTER 153

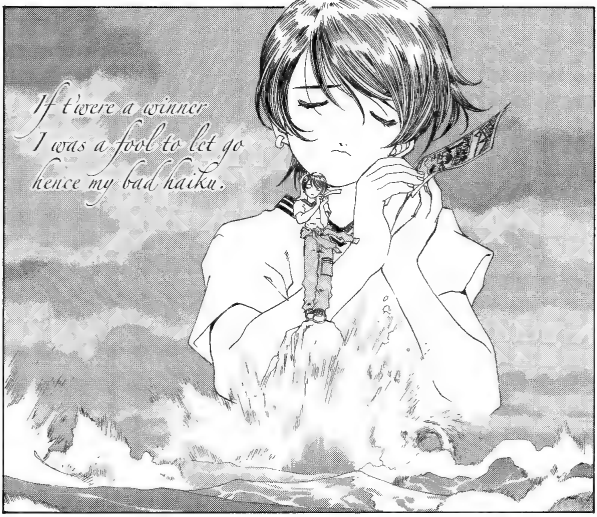
The Hot Springs Episode

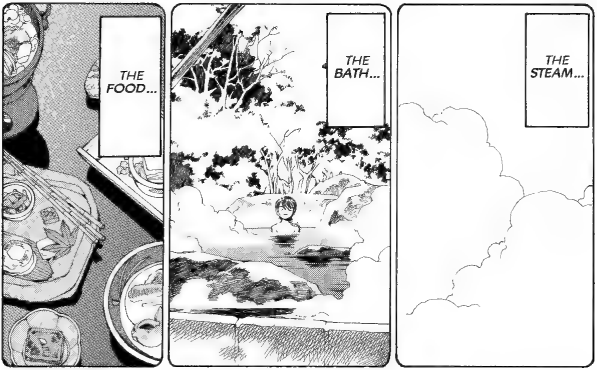


...GOOD-NESS!
OH...

NO... NOT THE LOTTERY.
WHADJA WIN? THE LOTTERY?!
playing innocent
NICE ACT, CHIHIRO.
GOSH, DARN!
YES, KEIICHI'S MOTHER.
REALLY?
TAKANO GAVE IT TO US!

GIMME THAT!!
--WHAT I GAVE YOUR DAD!
WAIT! GASP! THAT'S--
WIN A STAY AT YUUFUIN HOT SPRINGS RESORT
ONE WINNER
FOUR DAYS, THREE NIGHTS
WILL WIN
SEASONAL MENU
!
GAVE YOU THIS? WHY, WHAT IS IT?!
...I WOULD HAVE NEVER GIVEN IT AWAY!!
FOUR DAYS, THREE NIGHTS
IF I HAD THOUGHT IT MIGHT WIN...
013864178


If t'were a winner
I was a fool to let go
hence my bad haiku.


THE FOOD...
THE BATH...
THE STEAM...

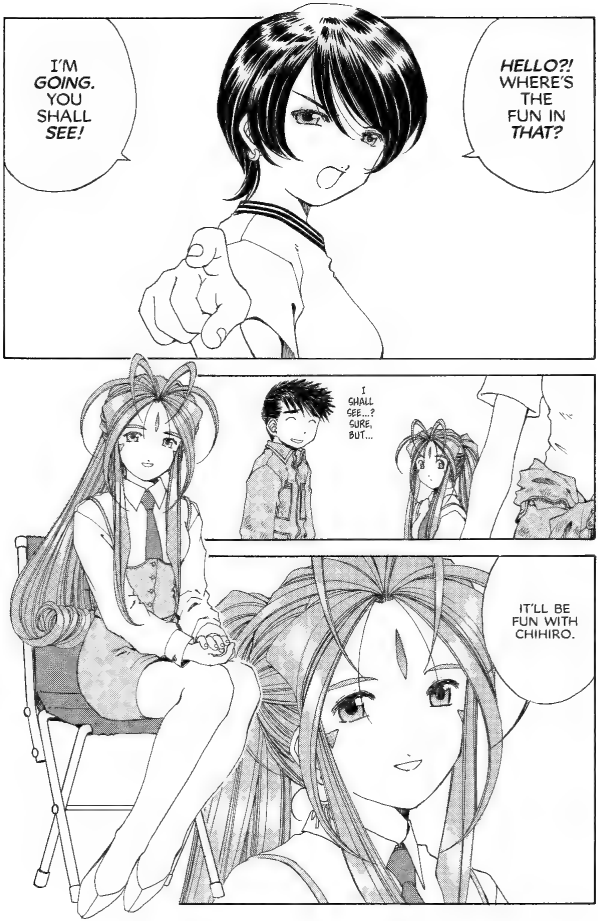
THE KARA-OKE...
THE PING-PONG...
MMM... BEAN CAKES...
MMM... BEAN CAKES
MISS CHIHIRO?
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THANK YOU.
AND TO *YOU*, BELL!
...I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
BUT...
OH! THANK YOU, KEIICHI.
NOT TRUE! YOU'RE MY *LADY LUCK*, BELL.

I'M GOING.

WHAAAT?!

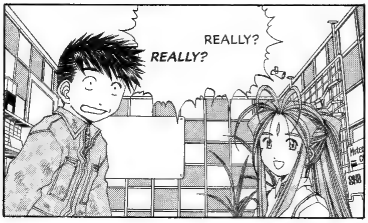
YOU'RE, uh, PAYING YOUR OWN WAY...
BUT I'M GOING.
I KNOW.
BUT IT'S FOR TWO!


I'M GOING. YOU SHALL SEE!
HELLO?! WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
I SHALL SEE...? SURE, BUT...
IT'LL BE FUN WITH CHIHIRO.

I'M PATHETIC.
...NOT ENOUGH.
YES?
...JUST THE TWO OF US WOULD BE...
um, NO...
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
HA! ♪
CHAK

NOW WE CAN *ALL* GO!
♡

I'LL TAKE THE WEEKEND OFF.
WE HEAD OUT SATURDAY.


REALLY?
REALLY?

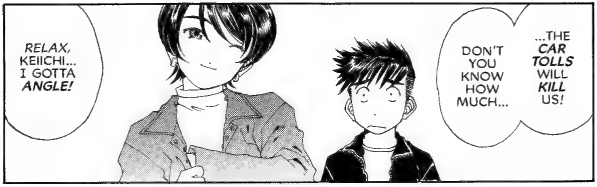
LIKE THEY SAY, *"IT TAKES A THIEF..."*

TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK!
RIGHT! LUNCH BREAK'S OVER!
...
MEET HERE AT FOUR A.M.!
!
MIDNIGHT
FOUR A.M.
BIKE

I DON'T GET IT...

SAT 4 A.M.

WE'RE GOING IN *THAT...?*
....
OH, HOW WONDER-FUL!
y-e-a-h-h-h, *BUT...*
THIS BABY'S BEEN IN *ROAD RALLIES!*
WHAT'S YOUR *PROBLEM?*


RELAX, KEIICHI... I GOTTA *ANGLE!*
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH...
...THE *CAR TOLLS* WILL *KILL* US!

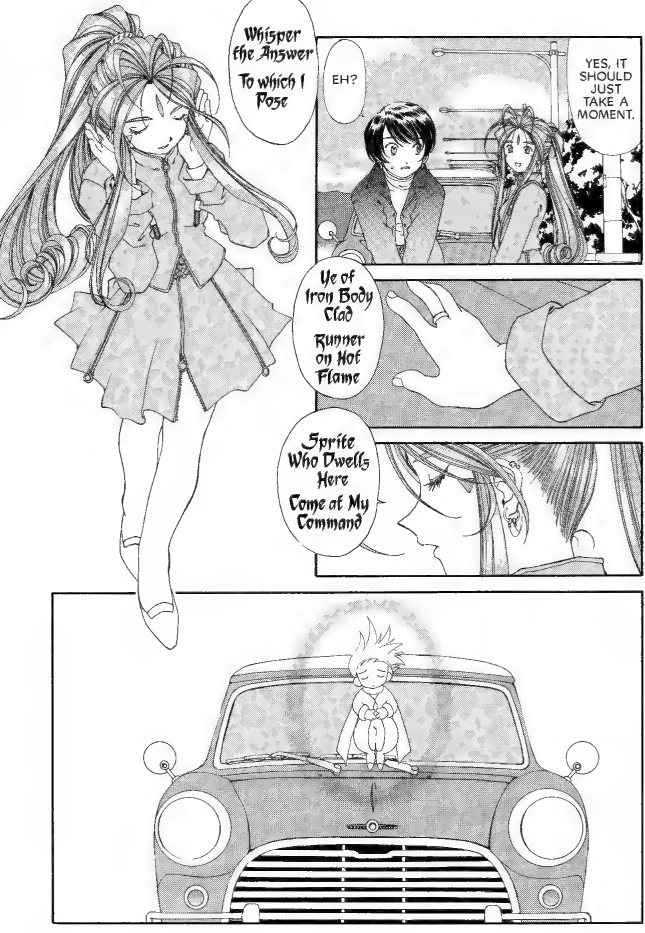
FIFTY THOU-SAND YEN'S WORTH! ♡
I ROUNDED UP LEFT-OVER *TOLL CARDS!*

YOU OR YOUR CAR.
DO YOU NOT *WANT* ME *ALONG?!*
YES, BUT WHY CAN'T THEY BE ALWAYS RIGHT WITH *MANNERS?*
THE *CUSTOMER* IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
SO WHAT?
YOU KNOW, THE TOLL BOOTH GUYS *HATE* THAT.

OUR VERY FIRST DRIVE ALL *TO-GETHER!*
THIS IS SO *EXCIT-ING!* ♡
LET'S HIT THE FRIGGIN' ROAD!
YEAH! *WOO!!*
HE'S PATHETIC...
....
ISN'T IT...?

WEST-
WARD
HO!
WE'RE
OFF!
5
CLEARANCE 3.8METERS
THE KOOLA
TOLL
BOOTH...

AH, YES... SMOOTH SAILING!!
WELL, WE'RE AUTO REPAIR PROS (technically, motorcycle repair pros, but how different could they be)! THIS SHOULD TAKE NO TIME!
KLUNK!
PITTAPITTA
...
pitta pitta pagaa...


Whisper the Answer To which I Pose
EH?
YES, IT SHOULD JUST TAKE A MOMENT.
Ye of Iron Body Clad Runner on Hot Flame
Sprite Who Dwells Here Come at My Command

YOU MEAN...
...I THINK HE'S *HUNGRY.*
shff
shff
shff
I *SEE* A BROKEN *GAUGE.*
SEE?!
FUEL
E ½ F
WE'RE OUT OF GAS.
NUH-*UH!* WE'RE *THREE-QUARTERS* FULL!
SHALL I CALL THE JAPAN AUTO FEDERATION?
harumph

SO... WHAT DO WE *DO?*
THEY'LL TOTALLY *RIP US OFF!*
I'M NOT, EITHER.
NO...
YOU A MEMBER, MORI-SATO?
WE'LL USE WHAT RESOURCES WE *HAVE!*
"WE" MEAN-ING...

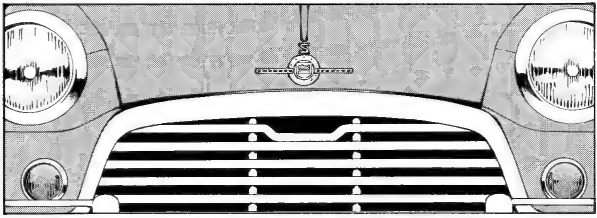
...BELL AND I! C'MON, BELL!
LET'S DEPEND ON THE KINDNESS OF COMPLETE STRANGERS!
ELP!
Please

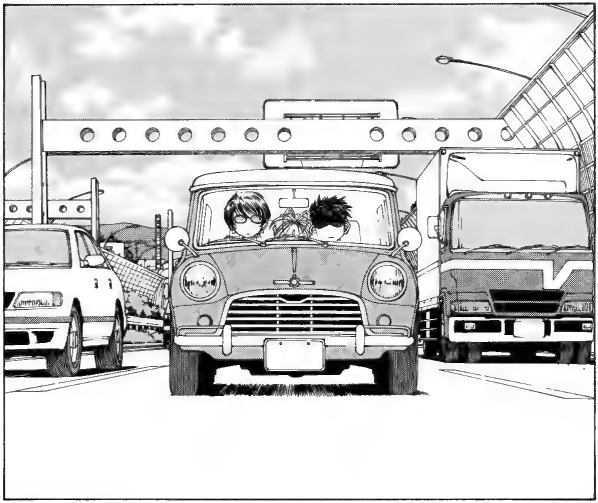
HELLO, STRANGERS!

SLOSH!
DAAAH!
HA! THE "FUELS" CANNOT RESIST OUR BEAUTY!
THANK YOU, STRANGERS!
NOT ONLY IS THAT A BAD JOKE...
...BUT THE REAL FOOLS ARE US, STUCK SOMEWHERE IN THIS TRAFFIC...

CHAPTER 154

I Dub Thee, Yuufuin





MORISATO-KUN?
CAN WE SWITCH DRI--
yawwn
I'M BEAT.

EVEN I WOULD BE ASHAMED TO MESS UP THAT.
DON'T WORRY, KIDS...
ONCE WE'RE THERE...
...I PROMISE I WON'T DISTURB YOU.

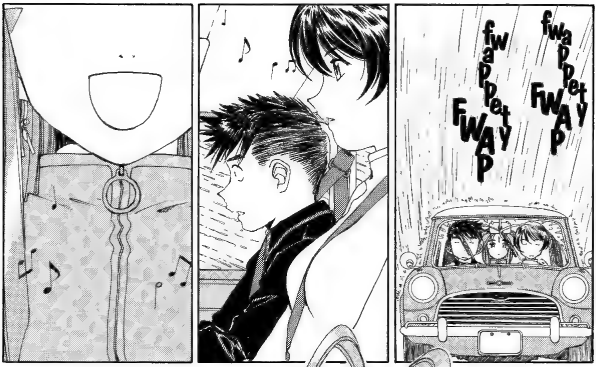
OR, I DUNNO, MAYBE I WILL.
shnff

!!
SO... CLOSE...
mm...?

HEY, CHIHIRO! GUESS IT'S TIME TO SWITCH DRI--
WRONG? NO! NOTHING! NEVER!
...OH.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
ZZZZZ
AAAIIEE!!
WAKE UP OR SLEEP FOR-EVER!
ngh? WHY?
CHIHIRO! WAKE UP!

CHIHIRO... I'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR THE PAST TWENTY MINUTES.
OKAY. AWAKE NOW.
SLOOSH
PLIP PLIP PLIP PLIP
PLIP
HUH...?

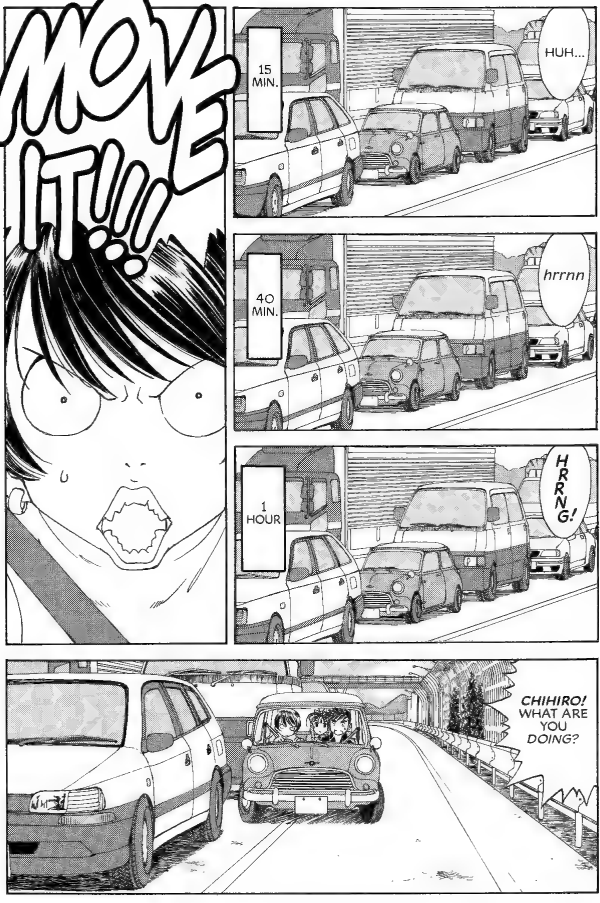
GOOD IDEA... THERE'S ONLY THE RADIO, THOUGH.
HOW ABOUT SOME TUNES?
fwish FWAP
KLUNK
fwip FWAP
fwip FWAP
fwip FWAP
FWAPPPP
FWAAAP
fwappety FWAP
TURN IT OFF!
KLK
death...
fwappety FWAP
...angels have no thought of ever returning you...
IT'S STUCK?
KLK
KLK
fwappety FWAP
...not where the black coach of sorrow has taken you...
CHANGE IT!
KLK
KICKIN' OFF A GLOOMY SATURDAY WITH... "GLOOMY SUNDAY"!
YOU'RE LISTENIN' TO J-SAD... WHERE IT'S NOTHING BUT SAD SONGS!
fwiRRSSH
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP


fwappety
FWAP
fwappety
FWAP

OH...

...LOOK!

IT'S A SIGN! NOTHING CAN GO WRONG NOW!
CONGES-TION NEXT 25KM
TIRE
RADIA-TOR
HOOD LATCH


MOVE IT!!!
15 MIN.
HUH...
40 MIN.
hrrnn
1 HOUR
HRRNG!
CHIHIRO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CHIHIRO, THIS WAY LIES CONFUSION... I FEEL IT!
渚台
OCHIAI
EXIT 200
SHORT-CUT? YOU DON'T KNOW THIS AREA!
TO HELL WITH THIS! I'M TAKING A SHORT-CUT.
THESE ROADS ARE NATIVE TO ME!
HMPH!
NEVER BEEN HERE IN MY LIFE.
DO YOU KNOW THEM? DID YOU... GROW UP HERE...?!

I'VE GOT THE SIXTH SENSE... OF THE WILD!
gleam!
...CAN SHE REALLY GET US THERE OVER THESE DESERTED BACK ROADS...?
WOW...

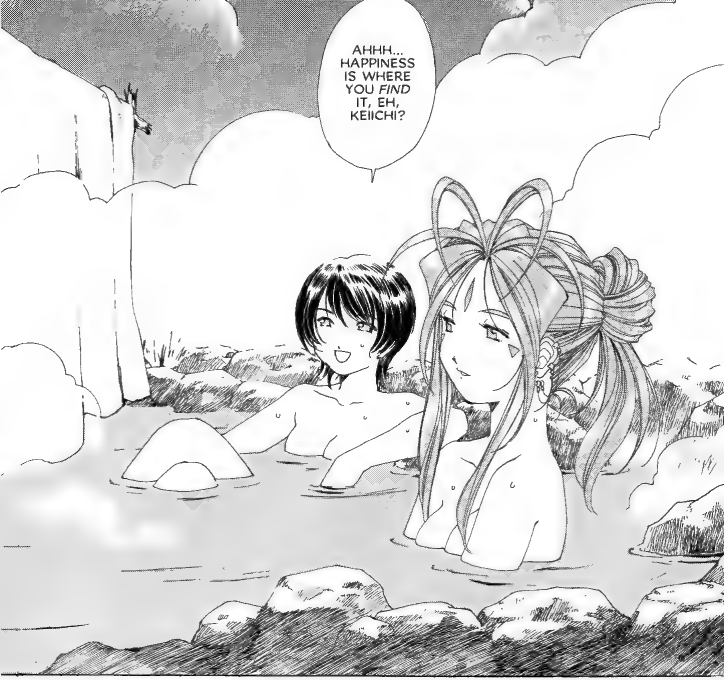
RAT
WHERE ARE WE?
WE'RE CLOSING IN ON YUUFUIN, I'D SAY.
LET'S SEE... WE'VE CLEARED THE KII PENINSULA... SO, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALFWAY THERE.
...LIKE I SAID... CLOSING IN.

?
...BETTER ASK BELL WHERE WE ARE...
AH! SMELL THAT MOUNTAIN AIR!
CLOSING IN ON DOOM...
HUH? WHERE'D SHE GO?
KEIICHI... I FOUND A SPRING.
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?!

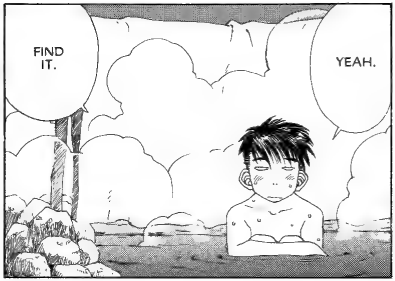
O Powerful Driller Tracer of Faults Borer of Stone
Show Us That Heated Fountain Flowing Through the Earth Below
Bid It Rise Forth With Your Strength
O Driller! RASENCHUU!
VRRIIIN!

CHIHIRO!
WHAT?!
THIS IS COOL! THERE'S A HOT SPRING RIGHT HERE!

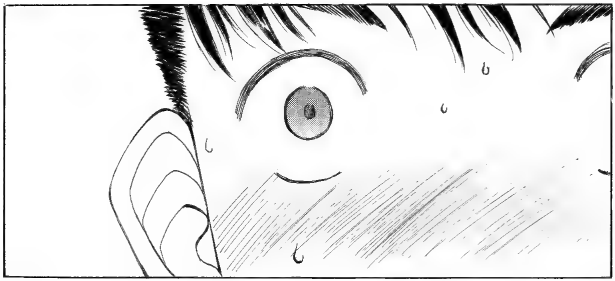
RO
MAN
TIC
!!
YUUSUIN Jr.
YOU


AHHH... HAPPINESS IS WHERE YOU *FIND* IT, EH, KEIICHI?

WOOSH


FIND IT.
YEAH.

YUUFUIN Jr.

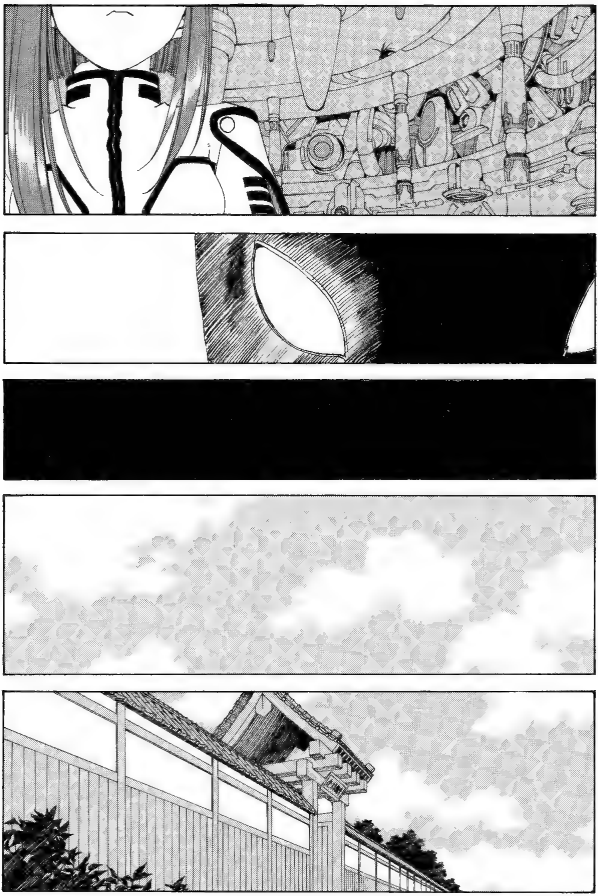


EAT ROCKS, YOU CREEP!
SHE WAS RIGHT! ♡
SPLOSH!
SPLOSH!
SPLOSH!

CHAPTER 155

Fighting Wings

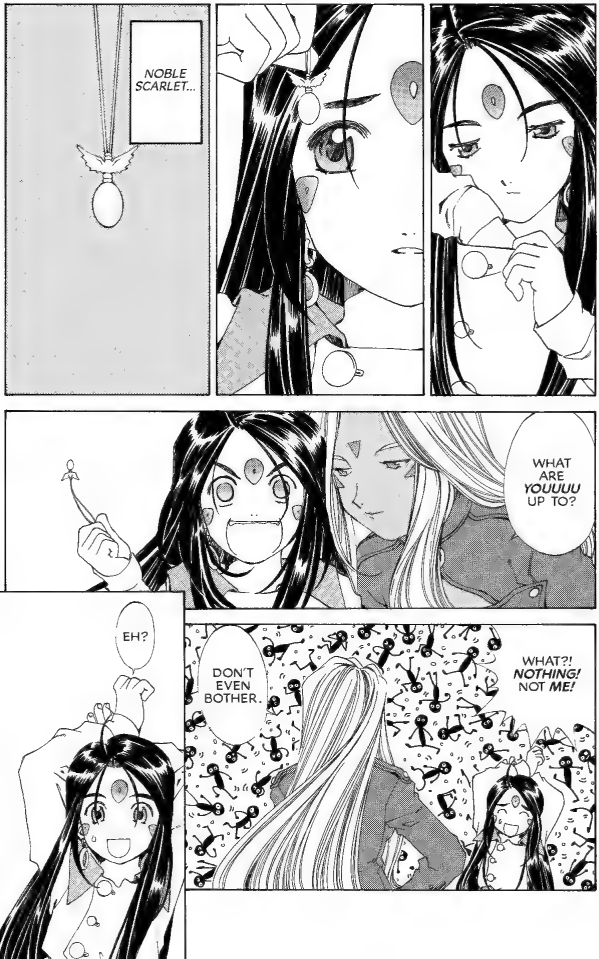
HEAVEN
MAGICAL CREATURES RESEARCH CENTER
RED ALERT.



DID I MISS THE TEA PARTY?
WHERE ARE THEY?
UM...

...OH.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
HUH? YOU'RE NOT JOINING THEM?

...
I'D LIKE TO STUDY THEM MORE...
IT'S TRUE. AND WITH SO *MANY* HERE...
ANGELS NEED TO HAVE FUN, TOO, *NON?*

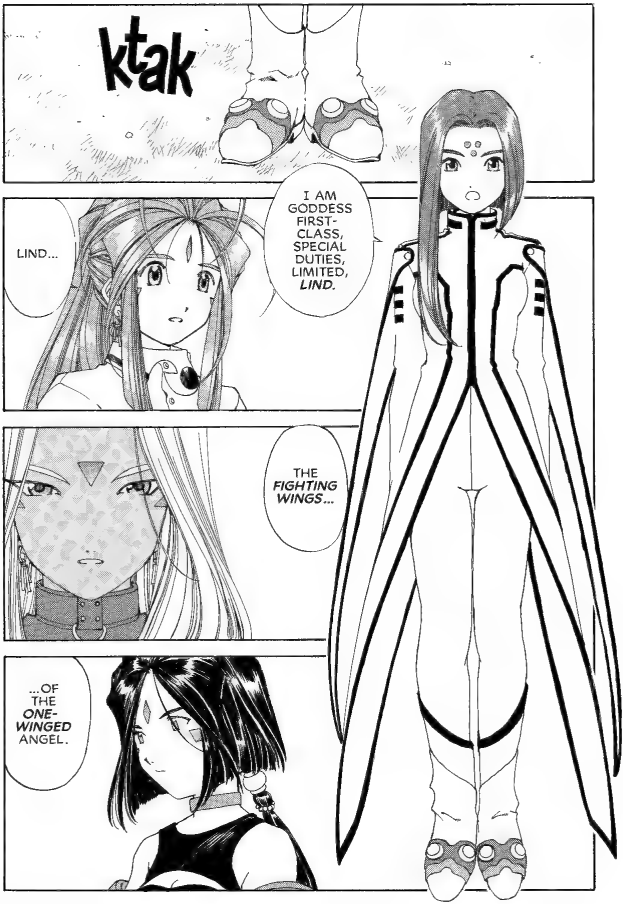

NOBLE SCARLET...
WHAT ARE YOUUUU UP TO?
EH?
DON'T EVEN BOTHER.
WHAT?! NOTHING! NOT ME!

YOU CAN'T SUMMON HER. STOP TRYING.
HRGGG!
YOU HAVE TO BECOME *ONE* WITH YOUR ANGEL.
IT'S NOT *POWER* YOU LACK.
OH, SHUT UP! I *KNOW* I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER!

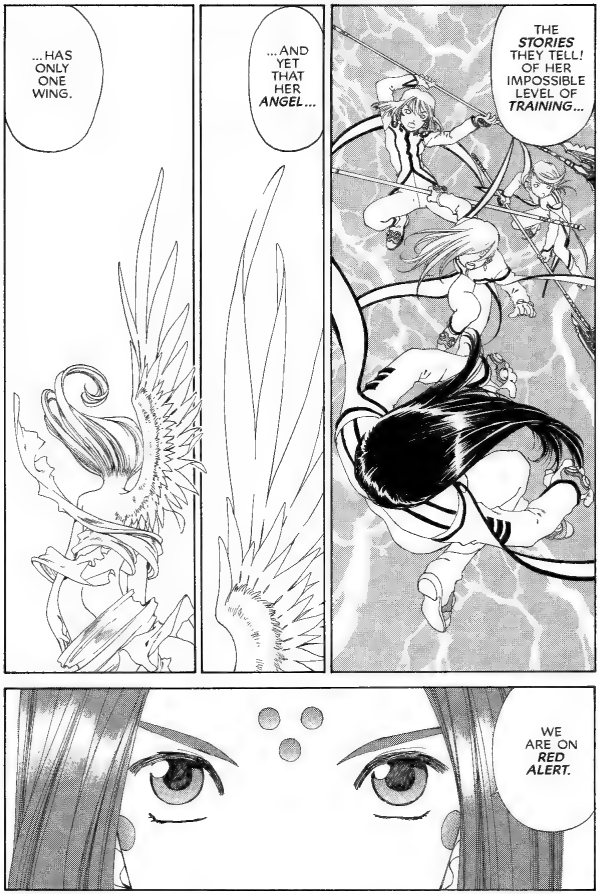
RESOLVE TO *ALWAYS* WALK TOGETHER WITH HER.
...
AND YOU MUST *WANT* TO BE WITH HER, FROM YOUR *HEART.*
NOT OUT OF ENVY OF OTHERS.

BELL...
I--
WHISH
A VAST POWER IS DESCENDING!
DEMONS AGAIN?!

...A GODDESS...
NO...
...THE WAR SECTION!
FROM...
FFFH

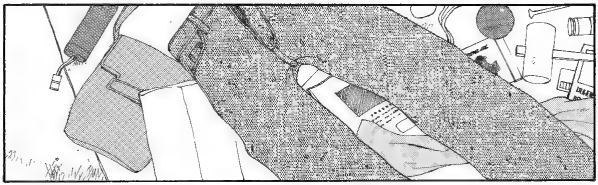

ktak
I AM GODDESS FIRST-CLASS, SPECIAL DUTIES, LIMITED, *LIND.*
LIND...
THE *FIGHTING WINGS*...
...OF THE *ONE-WINGED* ANGEL.

YOU NEVER *HEARD* OF HER?!
NOPE.
...
WHO?
EVEN THE *VAL-KYRIES*...
...THE *PROFES-SIONAL WARRIORS*...
...SAY SHE'S THE *FIERCEST* GODDESS OF THEM ALL!

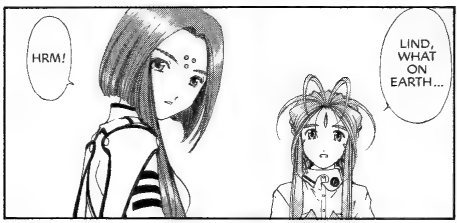

THE *STORIES* THEY TELL! OF HER IMPOSSIBLE LEVEL OF *TRAINING*...
...AND YET THAT HER *ANGEL*...
...HAS ONLY ONE WING.
WE ARE ON *RED ALERT.*

we are?
huh?
YES, MA'AM!!
...ALL OBJECTS NEW TO THE PREMISES WITHIN THESE LAST 24 HOURS!
YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY HAND OVER...
WHY ARE WE OBEYING HER?
I DUNNO!
I'M NOT THERE YET...

YES.
EVEN THIS *DOBON* GAME I BOUGHT?
YES.
EVEN THIS *ROSE* FROM *UN ADMIRATEUR?*
I'M APPALLED YOU BUY THAT STUFF, BUT *YES.*
MY MAIL ORDER *MANDRAKE?*
WAIT. I'LL GET THEM.
YES.
EVEN THE *JEANS* KEIICHI GOT YESTERDAY?
snap

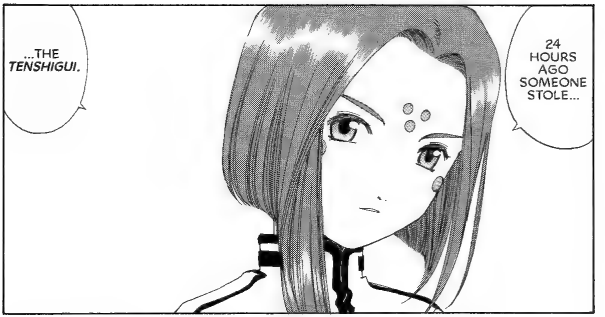


EE---

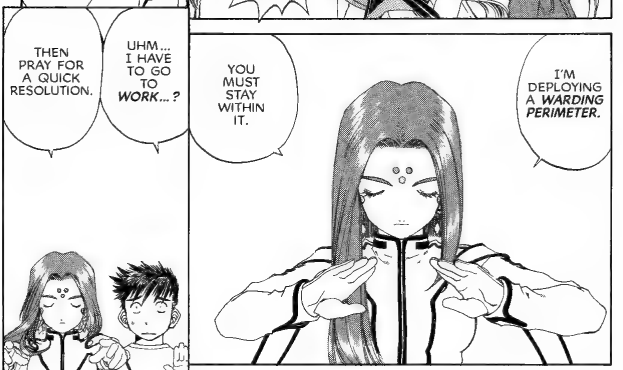

HRM!
LIND, WHAT ON EARTH...

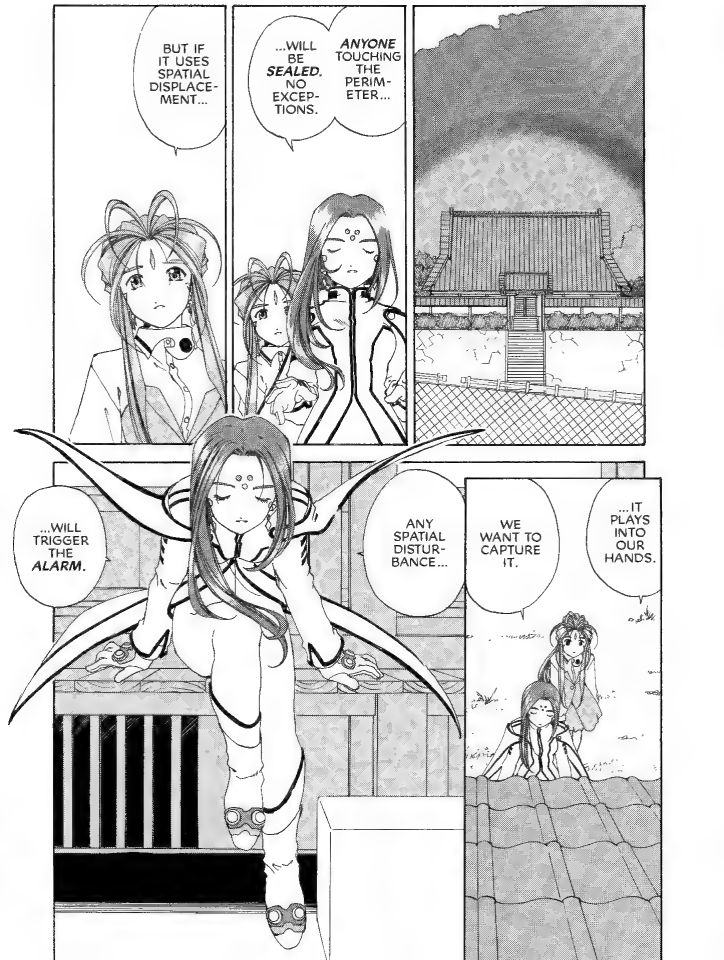
EEEEK!!

Snap
(NYEOW--!
THE REINCARNATED DEMON... WE HAD A *REPORT* ON YOU...
LIND, WILL YOU *PLEASE* TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON?
NEARLY FORGOT THE TOP THING ON THE LIST.


...THE *TENSHIGUI*.
24 HOURS AGO SOMEONE STOLE...

YES.
WE DON'T KNOW.
IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER ANGELS ARE TASTY.
HOW'D THEY BREAK THE *DEFENSES*?!
WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANNA EAT *ANGELS*? ARE THEY *TASTY*?!
TENSHIGUI?! THE *EATER OF ANGELS*?!

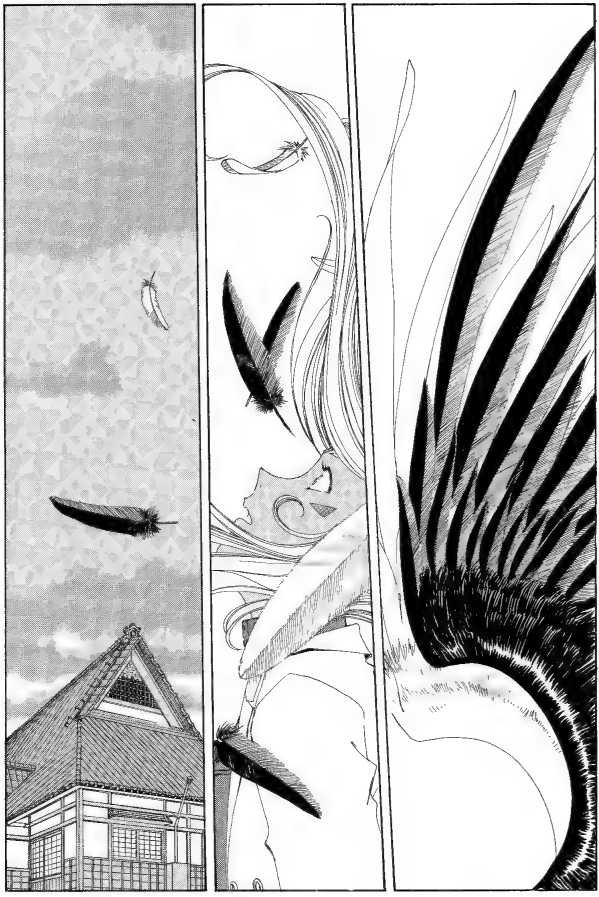

I'M DEPLOYING A *WARDING PERIMETER*.
YOU MUST STAY WITHIN IT.
UHM... I HAVE TO GO TO *WORK*...?
THEN PRAY FOR A QUICK RESOLUTION.


BUT IF IT USES SPATIAL DISPLACE-MENT...
...WILL BE *SEALED*. NO EXCEP-TIONS.
ANYONE TOUCHING THE PERIM-ETER...
...WILL TRIGGER THE *ALARM*.
ANY SPATIAL DISTUR-BANCE...
WE WANT TO CAPTURE IT.
...IT PLAYS INTO OUR HANDS.

...
I'LL STAND WATCH.
URD'S CASTLE
GET REAL!

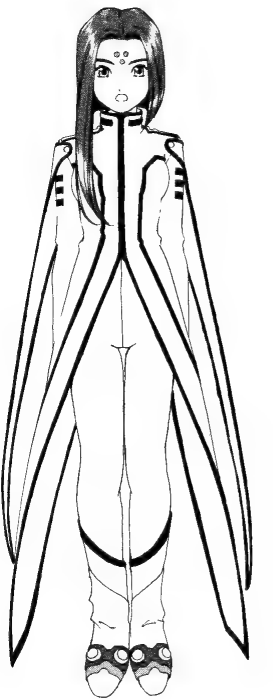
HMM... A ONE-WINGED ANGEL...
SHE'S JUST MESSING UP MY RESEARCH...
NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM A BLACK AND WHITE ANGEL... IS IT...?

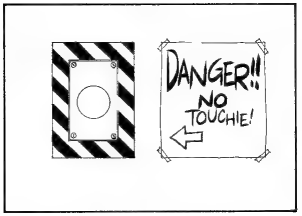
SHREEEE
NO!!

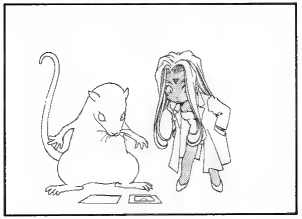


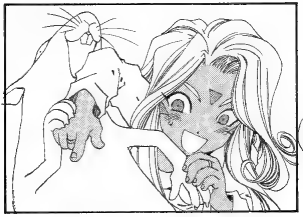
OH MY GODDESS!

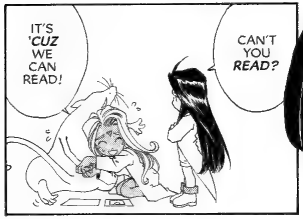
L I N D





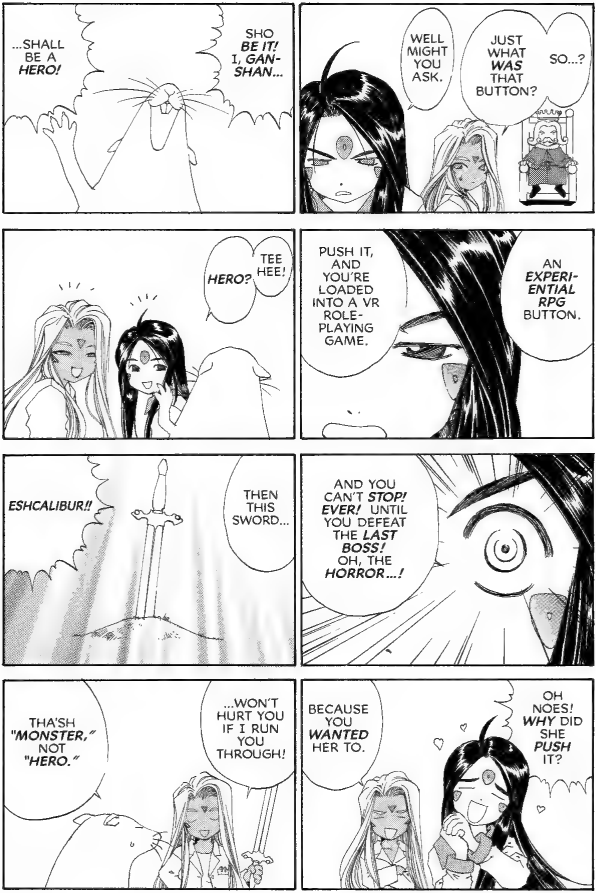


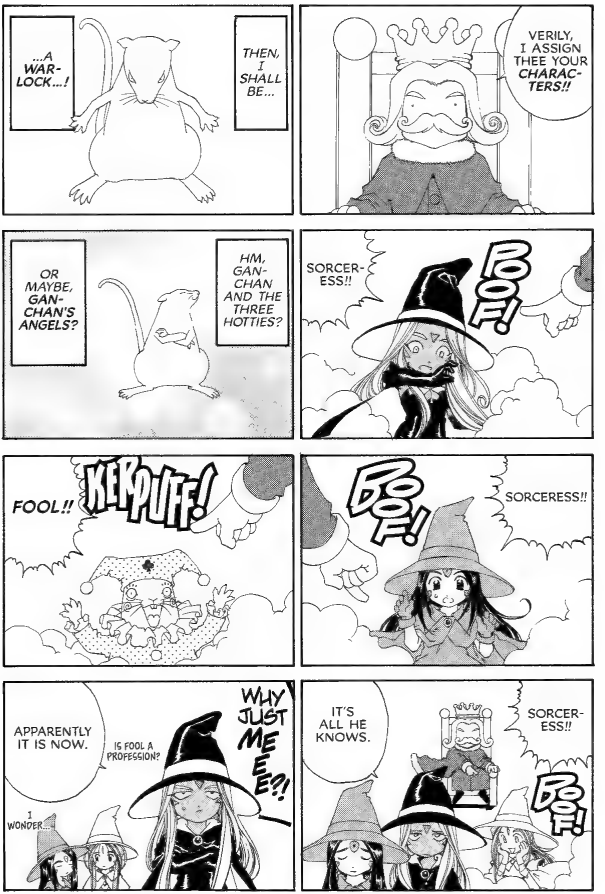


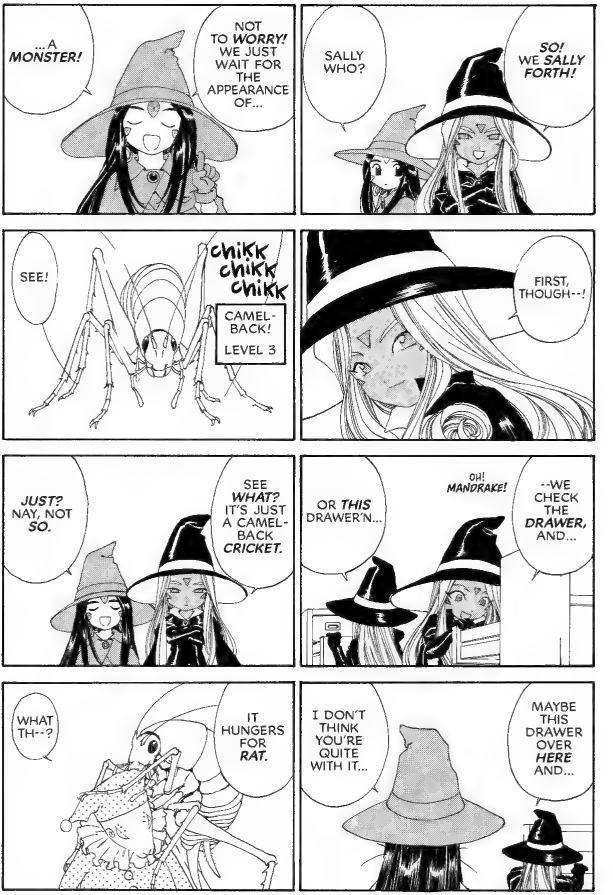


ADVENTURES OF THE MINI-GODDESS SPECIAL: MORE MAGICAL DO MI SO♭ ONLINE!

TATATATATA
AAAAAH!
WHAT?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
NO, ME!!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
ME!!
CONTINUE SAVED GAME?
BEGIN NEW GAME?
TOUCHA TOUCHA TOUCHA TOUCH ME!
SAVED GAME, PLEASE!
THE KING...?
WHATEVER.
THINK I'LL PUSH IT JUST 'CAUSE YOU SAY SO? GET REAL!
SHEEZ! WHO'SH GONNA PUSH THAT?
THEN DON'T ASK!!
BLEEEP! NO RECORD OF SAVED GAME.
TOUCH? OKAY!
POKE


...SHALL BE A *HERO!*
SHO *BE IT!* I, *GAN-SHAN...*
WELL MIGHT YOU ASK.
JUST WHAT *WAS* THAT BUTTON?
SO...?
TEE HEE!
HERO?
PUSH IT, AND YOU'RE LOADED INTO A VR ROLE-PLAYING GAME.
AN *EXPERI-ENTIAL RPG* BUTTON.
ESHCALIBUR!!
THEN THIS SWORD...
AND YOU CAN'T *STOP! EVER!* UNTIL YOU DEFEAT THE *LAST BOSS!* OH, THE *HORROR...!*
THA'SH *"MONSTER,"* NOT *"HERO."*
...WON'T HURT YOU IF I RUN YOU THROUGH!
BECAUSE YOU *WANTED* HER TO.
OH NOES! *WHY* DID SHE *PUSH* IT?


...A WAR-LOCK...!
THEN, I SHALL BE...
VERILY, I ASSIGN THEE YOUR CHARAC-TERS!!
OR MAYBE, GAN-CHAN'S ANGELS?
HM, GAN-CHAN AND THE THREE HOTTIES?
SORCER-ESS!!
POOF!
FOOL!!
KERPUFF!
POOF!
SORCERESS!!
APPARENTLY IT IS NOW.
I WONDER...
IS FOOL A PROFESSION?
WHY JUST ME E E?!
IT'S ALL HE KNOWS.
SORCER-ESS!!
POOF!


...A MONSTER!
NOT TO WORRY! WE JUST WAIT FOR THE APPEARANCE OF...
SALLY WHO?
SO! WE SALLY FORTH!
SEE!
chikk chikk chikk
CAMEL-BACK! LEVEL 3
FIRST, THOUGH--!
JUST? NAY, NOT SO.
SEE WHAT? IT'S JUST A CAMEL-BACK CRICKET.
OR THIS DRAWER'N...
OH! MANDRAKE!
--WE CHECK THE DRAWER, AND...
WHAT TH--?
IT HUNGERS FOR RAT.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE QUITE WITH IT...
MAYBE THIS DRAWER OVER HERE AND...

WELL GUYS, SHALL WE CALL IT A DAY?
IT'S JUST A PINCH!
NO! NO SHOTS!
GAN-CHAN VAN-QUISHES THE CRICKET.
owsh!
SURE. JUST PAUSE IT.
YOU CAN STOP IT?
OH! MY SORCER-ESS!
I SHALL RESTORE YOU TO HEALTH.
YOU DID WELL, FOOL.
SO BE IT. UTTER THE RESUR-RECTION SPELL.
MY LIEGE!
To This Warrior Wounded in Battle Bring Peace in Body And Soul!
"OH KING, I LOVE YOU. LET ME KISS YOU! MWAH!"
HM, "LET ME KISS YOU..."
HAH?!

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We're going to kick it for you a little different this time, as all the notes for Vol. 24, except the first and the last one (which Lea and I, as otaku, each caught instantly), are from the translator of *Oh My Goddess!*, Dana Lewis. I have no hesitation to say she is one of the very top translators working in the field; moreover her position on the staff of *Newsweek Japan* means she is used to explaining aspects of Japanese life and events to the English-speaking world (and more often, vice-versa). You'll definitely be hearing more of her commentary in the future!

20.3: Vending machines out on a country road at night! It's unthinkable in America, where they'd get robbed or vandalised before you could say "Correct Change Only."

47.2: Mahjong is deep, way deep. Skuld's done good for a beginner, getting her *daisangen* hand with three melds (three-tile sets) of the elements, and Urd's *chinrootoo* of pure terminals isn't half bad. For that matter, Peorth's rare *shooshuushi* with three melds and pair of winds is simply, well, goddess-like. She can sextuple her points if she gets the right last tile. But house rules rule, and if you got to go out to win, you got to go out. *Menzenchin*, Takano? That cheap, low-point closed hand? Tough luck, gals. First call, first win. *Tsumo!* It's kind of hopeless trying to explain all the rules and the very specific hands that the gals get here. They're rare, high-point hands in any case, which Takano breaks with a very simple, basic hand that wins her the game before the goddesses get a chance to draw for the final tiles they need . . . So a chatty footnote like above hints at all that without getting into the arcane specifics...

61.1: In the original exchange, Belldandy starts to say, "I'm a m—" Takano guesses "monstrous" and "Megaton Punch" (Carl butts in here to remark that the same year this story came out, Fujishima's magazine-mate Kenichi Sonoda changed the name of his famous *doujinshi* series from *Chosen Ame* to *Megaton Punch*), whereas Keima guesses "Melandri"—after Marco Melandri, racer on the Team Movistar Honda Motor GP RC211V team—and "megalopa," the larval stage of a crab. Of course, what Bell is trying to say is *megami*, the Japanese word for goddess.

95.3: The exact Japanese proverb she uses here is *ja no michi ha hebi*, "no one knows a snake path better than a snake."

99.2: The toll collectors may hate her, but you have to give Chihiro credit. Toll roads are incredibly expensive in Japan, so expensive that it's often cheaper to take the train or even *fly* than to take a long road

trip. And if you bought those pre-paid *haika* (for "highway card") toll cards, you always wound up with a few hundred yen left on the card. Luckily for Keiichi and company, they did this trip before *haika* were abolished in March 2006. Too many forgeries!

100.4: Originally Keiichi says "Let's go!" in Japanese (*ikou!*) first in Japanese, then he repeats it in English written out phonetically in *katakana*. The use of his somewhat broken-sounding English here was meant to give a sense of Keiichi's over-the-top, forced jolliness to try to please/reassure Belldandy.

117.5: *"One of these Sundays I know I'll die . . . "* These lyrics to the song "Gloomy Sunday" were written by Hungarians Rezsö Seress and László Jávor in 1933. Diamanda Galas covered a version of it on her 1992 album *The Singer*. Urban legend has it that so many listeners committed suicide upon hearing it, that the song was once banned from the radio! The Japanese lyrics Keiichi and the gals endure here are a little different from English translations used by the likes of Billie Holiday. But urban legend aside, Seress did in fact kill himself in Budapest in 1968, jumping to his death after never penning another hit.

139.3: Skuld is thinking all the way back to the events of Vol. 14, *Queen Sayoko* (available in the old flopped edition of *OMG!*), where she misused her angel privileges, and her angel Noble Scarlet is returned to her egg until Skuld matures.

149.4: Mandrake root is traditional in magic, but this is possibly also a joke on Mandarake, the otaku (and *doujinshi*) superstore.

159: Fantastic! It's the return of the Mini-Goddesses! The subtitle for this fractured fairytale was in the original Japanese *Motto Ojamajo Doremi Online*, being a combination of the computer RPG game *Ultima Online*, and the sequel to *Ojamajo Doremi*, the anime series currently showing on 4KidsTV under the title *Magical DoReMi*. The English version has been "ethnically cleansed," as I like to put it, meaning most if not all of its Japanese references and names have been changed to American-sounding English ones. The belief, I suppose, is that young audiences wouldn't enjoy a series if it contained a whole bunch of stuff about Japan.

Dear Dark Horse:

Rather than assault you with my commentary right-out, I would first like to thank your company for providing many years of fantastic comic titles. Dark Horse has admirably stayed abreast of non-traditional comics, keeping people like me satiated when looking to escape from heroes in spandex.

It has been a few years since I've been financially able to keep up with the *Oh My Goddess!* graphic novels. Now that I am looking to restart my collection again, I notice on your website that you have volumes 1-20 in an English-reading format, while newer volumes seem to have the Japanese-reading format. Are all of the new volumes going to have this feature? Will you eventually publish a Western format for those who wish to continue to read the comic this way?

While I appreciate being able to read your foreign titles, I find it irksome to read Japanese-format comics, as I am not familiar with, nor do I engage in, reading Japanese-language material. I've heard that this is an attempt to stay "true to the original," but if this is the case, why bother translating the title at all?

Please understand: I am grateful that your company provides American comics-readers with titles that we otherwise would not be able to enjoy. As a longtime comics collector I would rather read comics in the Western format the medium was introduced in, as opposed to re-adjusting to an irregular-reading format.

Thank you for your time,
Olivia Thompson
Allen, TX

First of all, thank you for your elegant letterhead. Not too many people have good taste in stationery these days. The issue you bring up is a very difficult one, and I imagine you're not the only longtime *OMG!* reader who was taken aback when we made the switch with Vol. 21. It is, literally, our new direction—there are no plans to publish any more volumes in the Western format. The change is too radical to be glossed over, but perhaps I can at least offer some explanations—admittedly from my perspective.

Even though my first six years as a manga editor were in the "traditional" format for manga in English (that is, flopping the artwork and packaging them to look like comic books), I have no trouble accepting the argument that manga artwork should not be flopped. Part of it comes from being into the Japanese editions of manga from an early age—so when it did eventually become the U.S. standard as well, not flopping wasn't such a strange idea.

As I've said before, most of the history of manga in English—and most of the history of *Oh My Goddess!* in English—has reached audiences in the form of flopped comic books. The unflopped, graphic-novel–only format is a relatively recent phenomenon when you take the long view. Considering how many people were exposed to great manga and great Japanese creators through that "traditional" format, flopping can hardly be called wrong. But if you turn it around and see it from the perspective of that creator, it is the unflopped format that cannot be called wrong.

A comics artist simply draws a work to be read a certain way, and the Japanese themselves appreciate this when it comes to *their* editions of *our* comics. For example, the Japanese publisher Jive has done translated editions of Dark Horse's *Hellboy* and *Sin City*—as well as DC's *Batman: The Killing Joke* and Wildstorm's *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*—and their editions, although translated into Japanese, are printed left-to-right, just as the art was drawn originally by Mignola, Miller, Gibbons, and O'Neill. And so we now publish Kosuke Fujishima's work right-to-left, just as he drew it.

The unflopped *Oh My Goddess!* is, as you say, an attempt to stay true to the original. And it is never meant to be more than an "attempt," because, as you say again, the true original of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 24 is not this book, ISBN 1-59307-545-6, published in the fall of 2006 in North America by Dark Horse Comics, but a book designated ASIN 4063211363, published in the spring of 2002 by Kodansha, Ltd. I'm not trying to be flip—as it were—but just to point out that despite the fact our new editions of *Oh My Goddess!* look more like the Japanese originals, they are, of course, still different in many ways. Staying "true to the original" in this case means "original" in a limited yet important context—namely, presenting the artwork in its original orientation and layout.

Thank you for your gratitude at the titles we publish. There's no getting around the fact this transition is awkward for those who have been reading *Oh My Goddess!* for years. So please know that we are more grateful still that you and everyone else out there buys these graphic novels and reads them. As we will no doubt be over-

reminding people in the days ahead, as of November 2006, *OMG!* will become the longest-running manga series in American history. The larger readership it can reach now in its bookstore format is something Mr. Fujishima's manga inherently deserves, but it would never have gotten to this point without the support of those who read it as a flopped comic book. Please understand that I would never wish this change to be felt as a rebuke to them.

Dear Enchantress,

Greetings. After seeing various media containing Belldandy a while ago, it made me curious about the series, so I looked into it. Two years later, I'm hooked. The storylines are fun and exciting, the art is fantastic, and leaves me wondering, just what IS the number for Heaven? The art has come a long way since the series' inception, and it just keeps getting better. It's a welcomed, often light-hearted respite after growing up with serious series like *Macross, Gatchaman,* and recently *GitS SAC* . . . oops, showing my age now . . . lol.

I do have a question regarding the racing board Keiichi used. Is it a real design? If so, what is the manufacturer and model name/number? The only thing I could get translated out of a Japanese AMG Collection book, is that it's called a "racing-gu bodo," has a Tanaka 40cc, air-cooled, 2-stroke, 3.5hp engine, and it's part of the Japan National Championship. The current boards look more like go-karts with skateboard wheels than the sleek design in the manga. Any help would be appreciated.

Per volume 23's goading, I've included a sketch of a "different Goddess in Heaven" for your "Letters to the Enchantress" section. Sticking with the mythological naming process, I called her Bastet . . . after the Egyptian Goddess of cats, protection, and fertility. I wish in no way possible to mean any disrespect to Fujishima Kosuke-san's creation. It's quite the opposite. Imitation is definitely the sincerest form of flattery in this case. Bastet's pose was loosely taken off one of the OVA covers, and was drawn during a couple of meetings at work. Enjoy.

Cheers.

Sincerely,
E. Jay Zadina
Detroit, Michigan, USA

You're not going to get away with trying to conceal your age by saying "lol," which no one who grew up with *Macross* (1982) and *Gatchaman* (1972!) should understand (*Gatchaman* was one of the very first gigs of a young Yoshitaka Amano, whose artbooks Dark Horse is proud to publish today). A lot of abbrieviations used on the Internet don't sound cool to me; "lol" puts me in mind of *lolling,* as in the look you have when your tongue hangs slack out of your mouth, and "rofl" makes me think of *rolfing,* as in throwing up, laughing at the carpet, a nod

from Misato, etc. However, I *do* like "o rly," because it takes an old sarcastic expression and uses abbrieviation to make it even more sarcastic—you're letting the other person know you're not sufficiently interested to bother typing all the letters in "really." So it's witty, the way many other bits of net speak aren't.

I really like *Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex*, but, as an older anime fan myself, it makes me realize one of the present limitations of the field. Namely, how many anime series do you know where all the main characters are old enough to vote? If you're into manga, you can find plenty of stories not only written for, but featuring, an older demographic. When it comes to live-action TV, it's the same. But when you consider anime, you come up short. TV anime hasn't yet developed the age diversification manga has achieved; shows like *GitS:SAC*, *Paranoia Agent*, and *Samurai Champloo* are doing a fine job, but we need more like them.

About the racing board: this is the point where I'm supposed to whip out some amazing erudition and research and tell you all about it, but I'm afraid, in the words of a TV show before my time, "I know nothing!" It's time to activate the gestalt-like hive mind of the "Enchantress" readership and ask for help. I'm man enough to admit when I need it. And as for your lovely drawing of Bastet, I don't think any apologies are necessary! Not only does she have the beneficent goddess expression, you've also stayed true to the series by giving her a wonderful costume design: flowing, ornate, and elegant. Thank you for sending this in!

And more fan art is right up ahead:

Dear Dark Horse Comics,

Hello fellow Oregonians! First, I would like to say thank you for bringing *Oh My Goddess!* to the States. I know I'm taking your time away but ever since I read *Childhood's End* (I happened to see it at the library and checked it out) I fell in love with manga! Of course my parents don't like it and don't think it's art. I saw something in the drawings that move me and no other manga can do what *Oh My Goddess!* does when I read it. Anyway, I made some fan art over the years and I finally have the courage to send them in. It doesn't matter to me if they get to be in the books or not, I just want to share them. I can't wait till the next issue of *Oh My Goddess!*.

A young fan :)

Kaitlyn Swain

P.S. I went to Japan this summer and I couldn't help but look at what's coming next and I feel ashamed. But I didn't read anything and only flipped around! Please forgive me . . . What really shocked me was now cheap manga is! It's only 250 yen!!! At the time it was less than $2.50 per book. Anyway, *Thank You!!!*

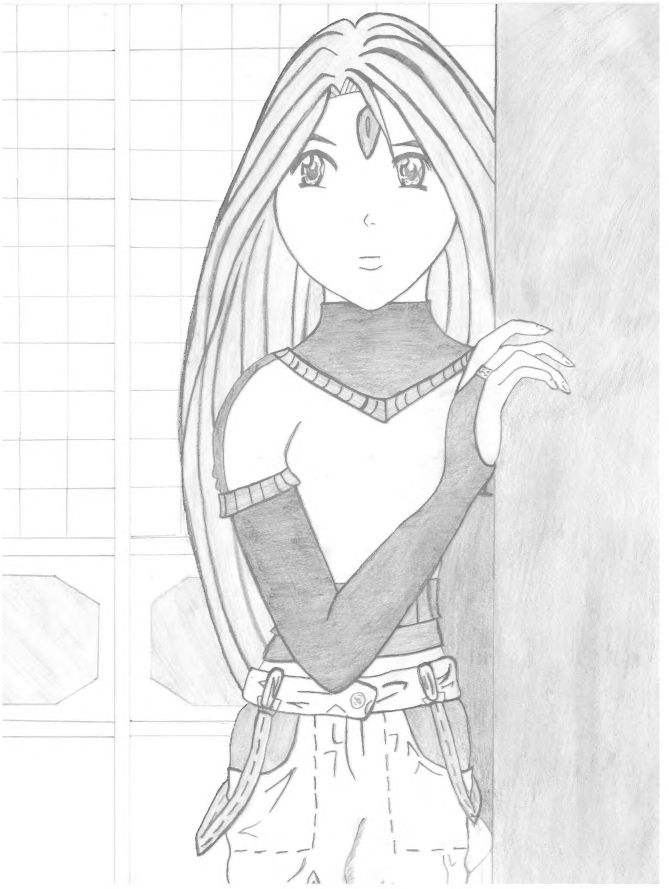
Finally, it's okay to print my email address. It's waternymphskuld@yahoo.com

Don't feel bad; I have to use a lot of reference books when I puzzle through the Japanese *OMG!* Again, I'm glad I have Dana Lewis on my side. I don't know why parents would object to *Oh My Goddess!* Is it because of the way Keima and Takano are portrayed?

Well, that's all for now. If you didn't see your letter here, don't despair—we have ones we haven't gotten to yet! But don't let this momentum die down, either; keep on sending in your thoughts in words and pictures!

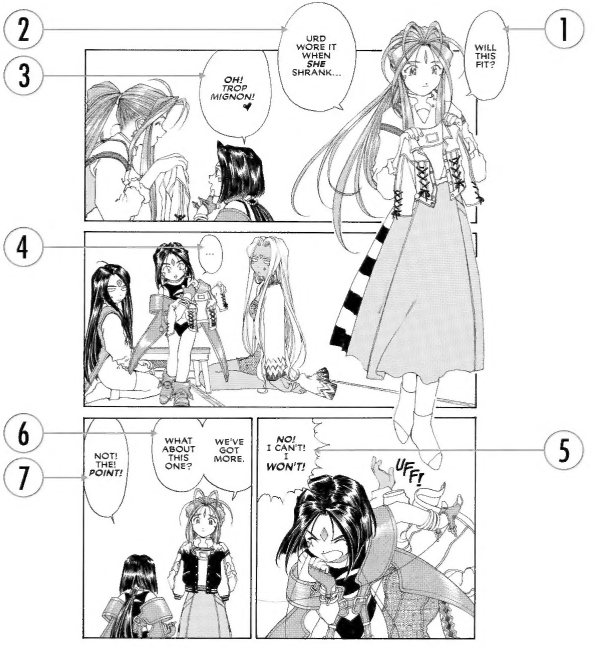
—CGH

Kaitlyn Swarm
Age 15



STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



Oh My Goddess! 24

ああっ女神さまっ

AS THE PARENT-CHILD showdown between Keiichi and his fa—um, "Keima-san," races its way along the night roads of the Inokuradai Circuit, his mo—uh, "Takano-san," passes the time by whupping the Goddesses at mah-jong. But does she realize what they really are? Then, cry "*Roadtrip!*" and let Chihiro's Mini Cooper slip into gear, as she, Bell, and Keiichi hit the highway to a hot springs. But the vacation from drama is brief—and readers are advised to prepare for the advent of . . . the *Fifth Goddess*! Plus: after years away, *new* installments in the *Adventures of the Mini-Goddesses!*

Dark Horse continues *Oh My Goddess!*, now in the much-requested, inexpensive, right-to-left format!

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